

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GRIMES made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 247.]

*The Committee on Pensions, having had under consideration the memorial of Mary Elizabeth Castor praying for a pension, beg leave to report:*

That it appears that petitioner was married, in 1839, to Samuel Whitehorn, who was then a first lieutenant in the United States infantry; that, in the year 1840, he was ordered to Fort Winnebago, Wisconsin, where he died, on the 2d November following, of a fever caused by the malaria, to the influence of which he was subjected while at Fort Howard, leaving her with an infant son, a few weeks old, in great destitution; that more than ten years after her said husband's death she married Thomas F. Castor, who was a cadet, in 1841; brevet second lieutenant dragoons, July 1, 1846; first lieutenant, October, 1851, and died at Fort Tejon, California, December 21, 1855; that she resided with her husband at his post in California; that for some years prior to his death they resided under a tent, where, partly in consequence of exposure, she believes he died as above stated; that her husband, at his death, left her almost entirely unprovided for; that she returned to the Atlantic States, and has since remained entirely dependent upon her friends; that her father is a chaplain in the United States navy, with small means and a large family, and, therefore, unable to render her very little assistance; and that the state of her health is such as to prevent her from earning a livelihood for herself.

The records of the surgeon general's office show that the first husband of petitioner was, on the 24th August, 1840, attacked with a fever of an "inflammatory character," but of an "intermitted type," and that the official report shows that, in all probability, Lieutenant Whitehorn's system was predisposed "to an attack of fever by the influence of malaria while at Fort Howard."

The records also show that her late husband, First Lieutenant Thomas F. Castor, 1st regiment United States dragoons, died at Fort Tejon, California, of "*phthisis pulmonalis*," (consumption.)

Hon. Charles Mason, late Commissioner of Patents, says: "I have been well acquainted with her (the petitioner) since some time pre-

vious to her first marriage, and believe the statements given to be substantially correct; many of the facts are known to me personally."

Hon. J. W. Grimes, United States Senate, says: "I have known Mrs. Mary E. Castor more than twenty years, and know the facts set forth by Judge Mason to be true. I also know that the sight of Mrs. Castor is so far impaired that she is entirely disabled from sewing or reading, and unable to do anything towards her own support, and that this injury to her sight is permanent."

Your committee, therefore, report a bill for her relief, and recommend its passage.